



DOCTOR STRANGER FATE

#1
APR 88

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RON
MARZ
JOSE LUIS
GARCIA-
LOPEZ
KEVIN
NOWLAN



HE'S OUT
THERE...

... SOMEWHERE...

I HAVE
TO STOP
HIM.

...NOT TRULY
UNDERSTANDING
WHAT HE IS, BUT
CARRYING THE
KEYS TO THE
DESTRUCTION OF
EVERYTHING THAT
EXISTS.

==HFF==

==HFF==

==HFF==

CUM-
CAN'T...
STOP...



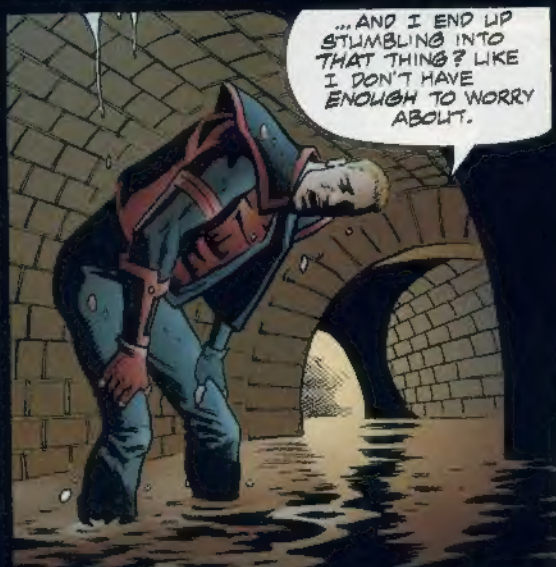


"...JUST
KEEP..."

"...MOVING?
WHERE'D IT
GO?"

OH,
MAN..."

"...DON'T KNOW
WHERE I AM,
WHAT I'M
SUPPOSED TO
DO..."



"...AND I END UP
STUMBLING INTO
THAT THING? LIKE
I DON'T HAVE
ENOUGH TO WORRY
ABOUT."



AT LEAST
IT'S GONE. I
CAN GET BACK
TO FIGURING
OUT HOW
I'M--

ABOMINITE
CAUGHT
YOU!

~MWH?!

CRASH





COME.



I AM
PREPARED.

THE DECREES OF FATE

RON MARZ-SCRIPT
JOSE LUIS GARCIA-LOPEZ PENCILS
KEVIN NOWLAN-INKS
MATT HOLLINGSWORTH-COLORS & SEPARATIONS
CHRIS ELIOPOULOS-LETTERS
DAN THORSLAND-EDITOR
SPECIAL THANKS TO
MICHAEL HAGEN



SUMMON
THEM, MYX.
ALL THREE
OF THEM.

AS
DOCTOR
STRANGE
COMMANDS...

...SO
SHALL IT
BE DONE.





PAST CIRCUM-
STANCES HAVE
PLACED EACH OF
YOU IN MY DEBT.
SO I PLACE A
TASK BEFORE
YOU.

YOU WILL SEEK
OUT A MAN, AND
DELIVER HIM TO
ME.



OH,
PLEASE.

YOU
KNOW,
DOC...

YOU NEED
THREE OF US
FOR THAT? YOU
WANT SOME GUY
GRABBED, I CAN
DO IT MYSELF.

DO WE
HAVE TO GO
THROUGH THIS
EVERY TIME
WITH YOU?



...I'M NEVER ONE
TO GIVE ANOTHER
WOMAN HER DUE, BUT
THE REDHEAD IS RIGHT.
THERE'S NO REASON
FOR ALL OF US TO
BE HERE.

YOU
WANT A MAN
FOUND...

...ALL YOU
NEED IS
ME.

DON'T TEST
MY PATIENCE,
WITCH.

NOT
TODAY.



ATTEND.

THIS IS THE
OBJECT OF YOUR
SEARCH.

HE IS CALLED
ACCESS. HE IS AN
OUTSIDER, A WILD
CARD, AND HE IS NEAR,
SOMEWHERE IN NEW
GOTHAM CITY.

THE FULL EXTENT
OR NATURE OF HIS
POWERS IS UNCERTAIN,
YET I CAN TELL YOU HE
WIELDS MIGHT ON A
UNIVERSAL SCALE. HE
REPRESENTS A GREATER
DANGER THAN ANY
PREVIOUS FOE...

...MEPHISATANUS
AND BARON WOTAN
INCLUDED.



YOU'VE BEEN
TOLD WHAT'S
NECESSARY. THE
REST IS MY
CONCERN, NOT
YOURS.

COME ON, THIS
ONE GUY IS
THAT BIG A THREAT?
WHAT ARE WE
REALLY TALKING
ABOUT HERE?



HE LOOKS
LIKE SUCH A
SWEET BOY.

WHAT ARE
YOU INTENDING?
IMPRISON HIM
BELOW IN
ARKHAM?

I'M AFRAID
A CONSIDERABLY
MORE SEVERE
SOLUTION IS
WARRANTED.

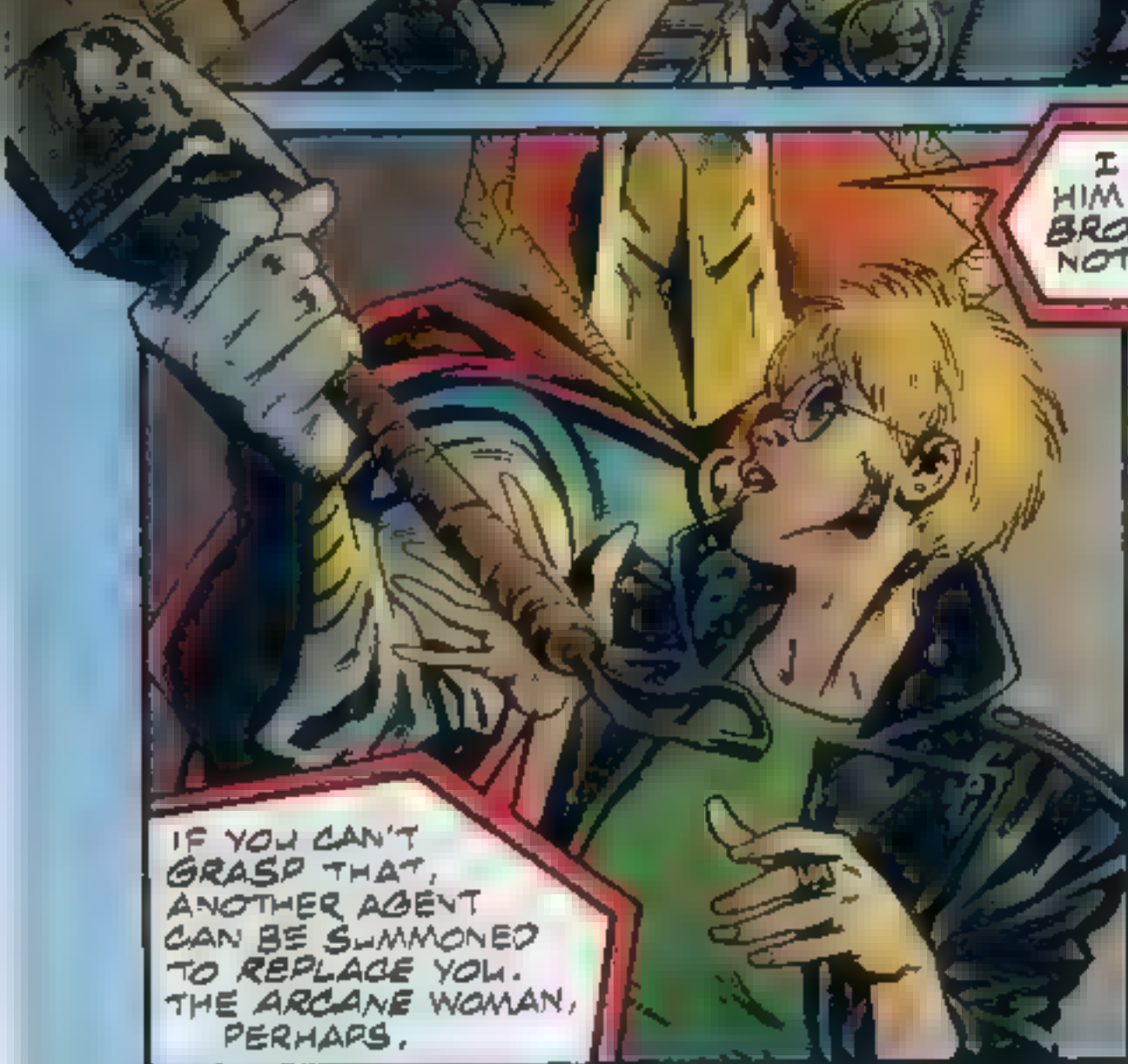
THESE ARE NOT
IDLE WARNINGS.
ACCESS THREATENS
THE VERY FABRIC
OF OUR REALITY.



BE SERIOUS.
THAT KID LOOKS
ABOUT AS THREATEN-
ING AS SANTA
CLAUS.

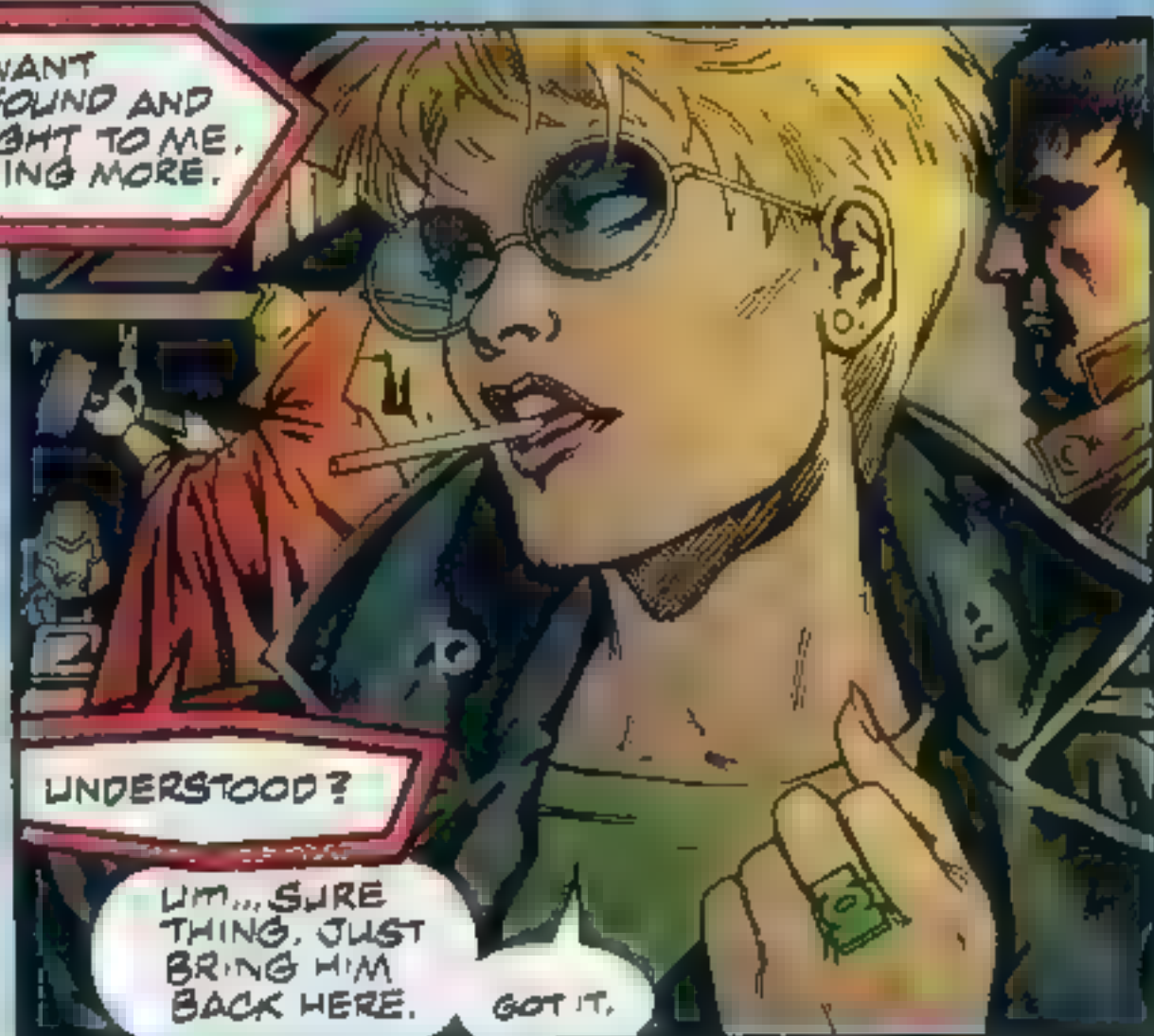
LIKE I SAID, YOU WANT
HIM TAKEN OUT, I CAN FLY
SOLO ON IT. NO PROBLEM.

HIS
DESTRUCTION
IS NOT YOUR
MISSION.



I WANT
HIM FOUND AND
BROUGHT TO ME.
NOTHING MORE.

IF YOU CAN'T
GRASP THAT,
ANOTHER AGENT
CAN BE SUMMONED
TO REPLACE YOU.
THE ARCADE WOMAN,
PERHAPS.



UNDERSTOOD?

UM... SURE
THING. JUST
BRING HIM
BACK HERE.

GOT IT.



I'VE ENTRUSTED
THIS MATTER TO YOU
BECAUSE YOU ARE THE
MOST RELIABLE OF
MY AGENTS. YOU'VE
NOT FAILED ME IN
THE PAST.

DON'T
DO SO
NOW.



DISPERSE
THEM, MYX.

YES,
MASTER.

DON'T
WORRY,
DOC...



...WE'LL
GET YOUR
MAN.

MASTER?
F I MIGHT?

SPEAK.

I ASK WHY
YOU DO NOT
SEEK THIS MAN
YOURSELF. IF THE
THREAT HE REPRESENTS
IS SO DIRE, WHY
DO YOU EMPLOY
YOUR AGENTS?

THE AGENTS
ARE PAWNS.

THEY SERVE TO
PROBE, TO DETERMINE
STRENGTHS AND WEAK-
NESSES. I WILL KNOW
WHAT TO EXPECT
FROM MY OPPONENT
BEFORE I ENGAGE
HIM.

AND THEN
I WILL DEAL
WITH THIS
ACCESS
PERSONALLY.

AH.

YOU SIT
ON HIGH AND
ORCHESTRATE. AS
ALWAYS, YOU GAIN
YOUR ENDS THROUGH
MANIPULATION.

I SUPPOSE
MY SERVITUDE IN THIS
DIMENSION IS PROOF
ENOUGH OF THAT

THIS CIRCUMSTANCE
IS WHOLLY DIFFERENT
FROM ANY OTHER I'VE
FACED, MYX, THOUGH
YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND
WHY.

IF ACCESS IS
NOT ELIMINATED,
EVERYTHING I'VE
ACCOMPLISHED, ALL
I'VE BUILT...

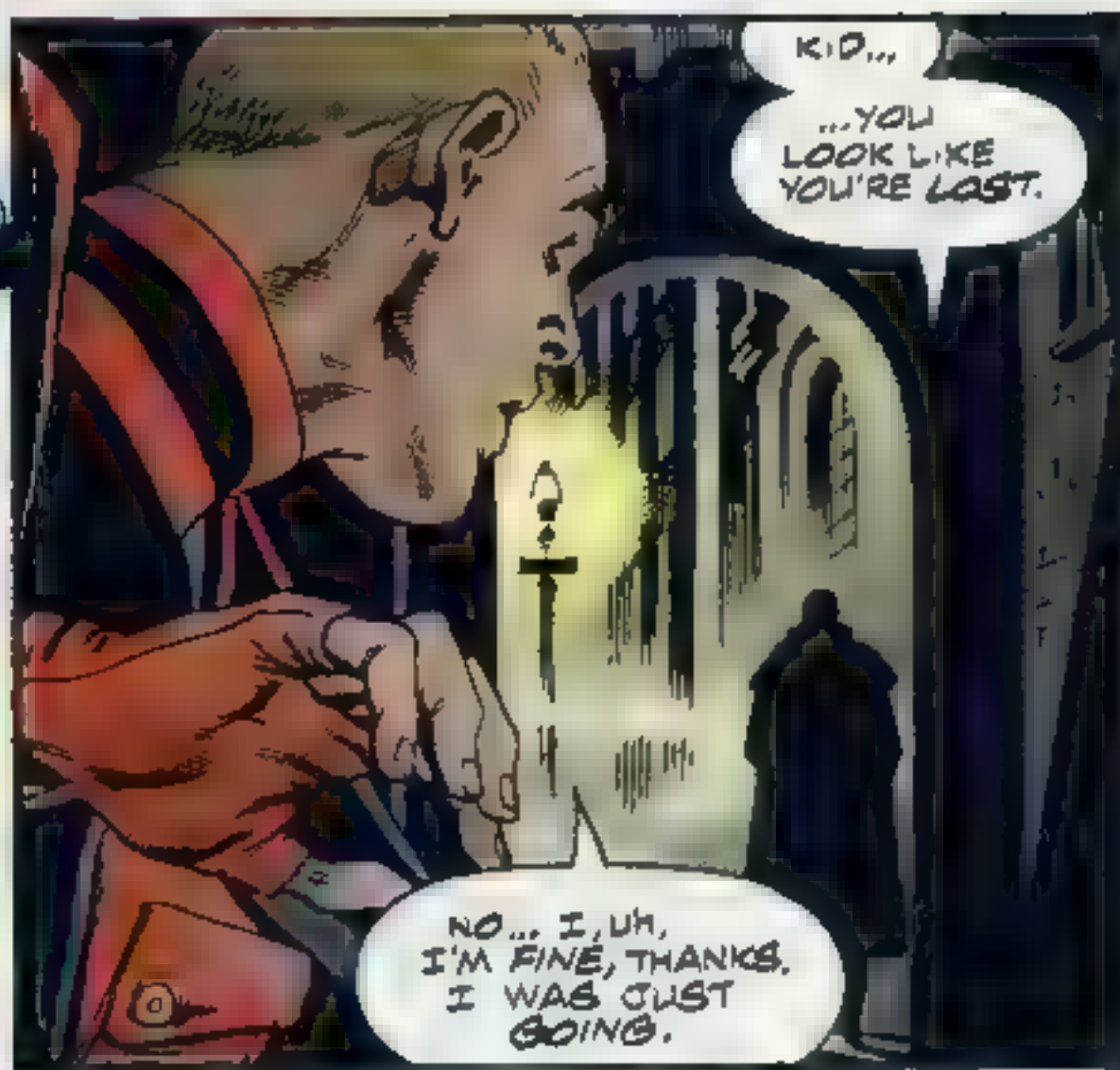
"... COULD
COME
CRASHING
DOWN."

"... DOWN IN
A SEWER..."



THIS
IS TOO
MUCH.

COSMIC BEINGS,
COMBINED UNIVERSES.
AND I'M SUPPOSED
TO BE THE ONE
WHOS--



KID...
...YOU
LOOK LIKE
YOU'RE LOST.

NO... I, UH,
I'M FINE, THANKS.
I WAS JUST
GOING.



IT'S OKAY.
I CAN SEE
YOU'RE ALONE
IN THE WORLD.

I KNOW
WHAT THAT'S
LIKE, TO BE AN
OUTCAST, TO
BE HUNTED,
HERE...



...LET ME
HELP.



LOOK, I
DON'T NEED
ANY HELP.
WHAT I NEED
IS TO BE
LEFT--

WHY
DON'T YOU
JUST COME
WITH ME?

... ABOUT
TO GET MY
HEAD PULPED
BY...
... WELL,
WHATEVER
THAT THING
WAS...



... THEN I'M
UP ON A
ROOFTOP.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



STAY
AWAY
FROM
ME!

IT
WOULD'VE
BEEN...

...T WOULD'VE
BEEN SO MUCH
EASIER.

I WANTED
TO THINK...

...THAT IT
WOULDN'T
COME TO
THIS...

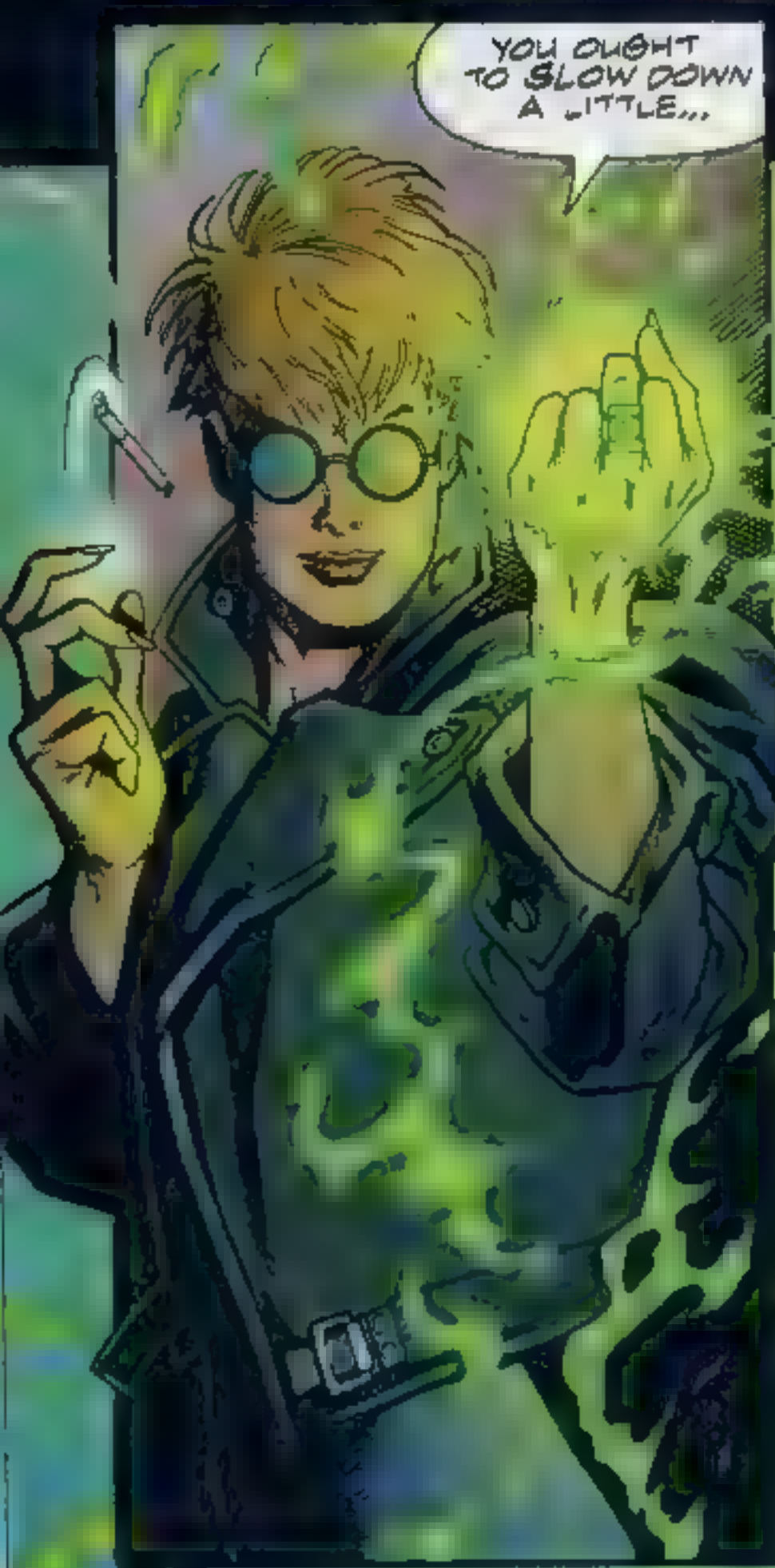
...BUT IT
ALWAYS
DOES...

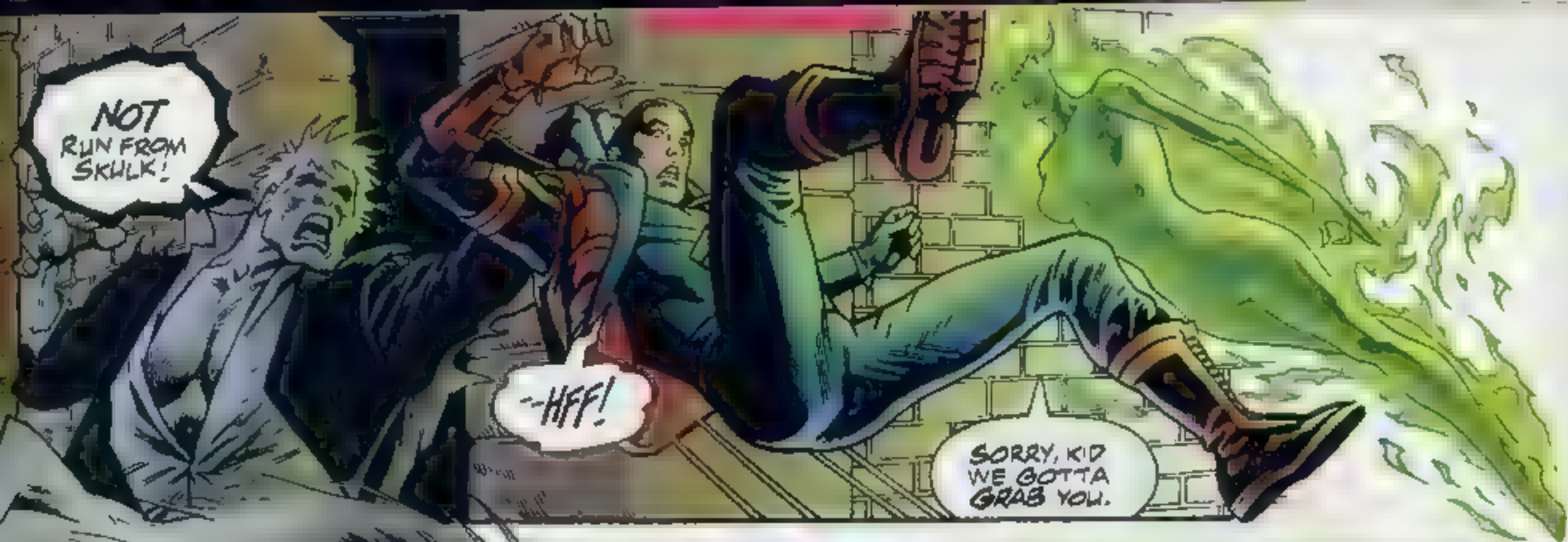
...ALWAYS...

COME
HERE!

OH
JEEZ...

THOW

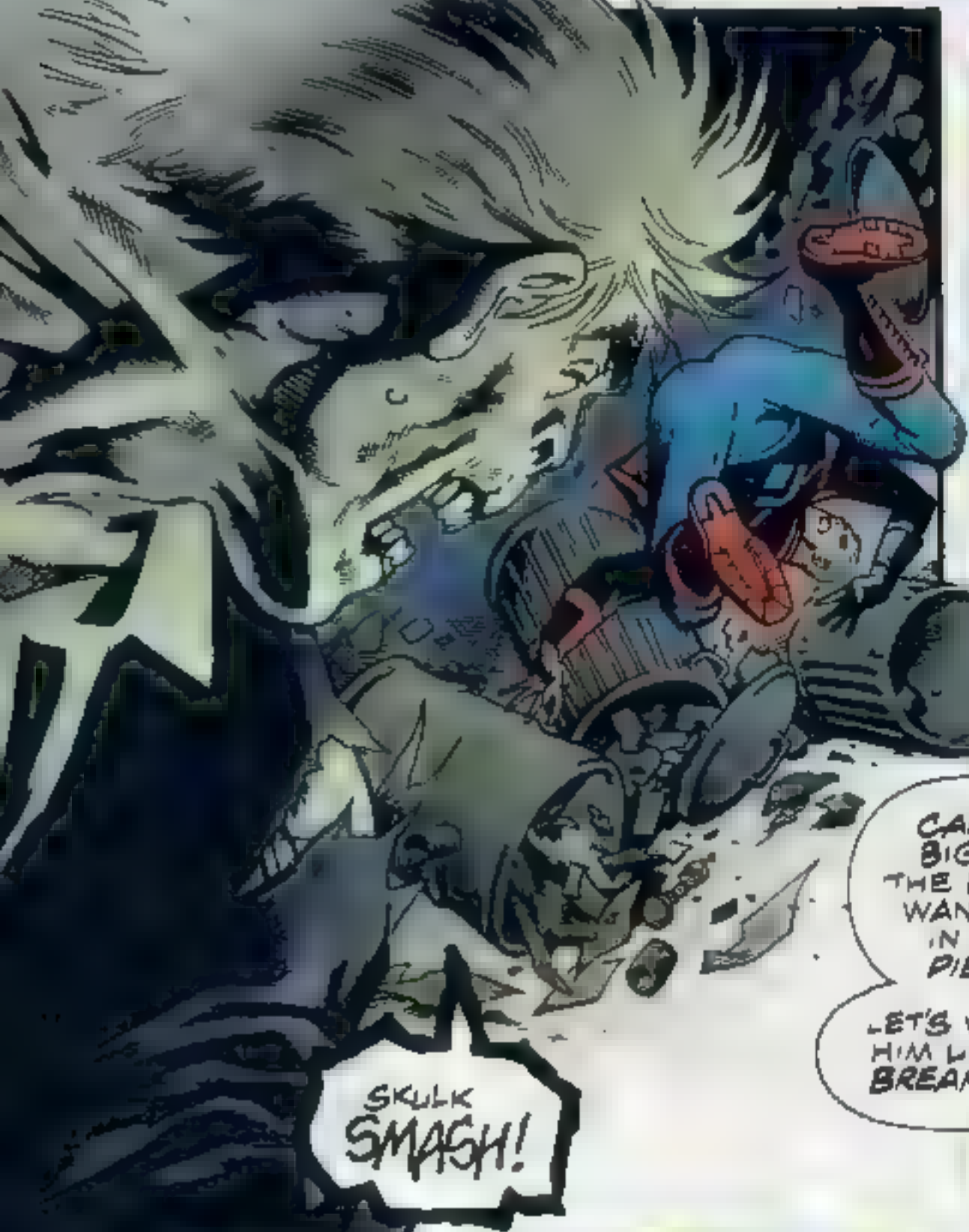




NOT
RUN FROM
SKULK!

--HFF!

SORRY, KID
WE GOTTA
GRAB YOU.



SKULK
SMASH!



CAREFUL,
BIG GUY.
THE BOSS
WANTS H M
IN ONE
PIECE.

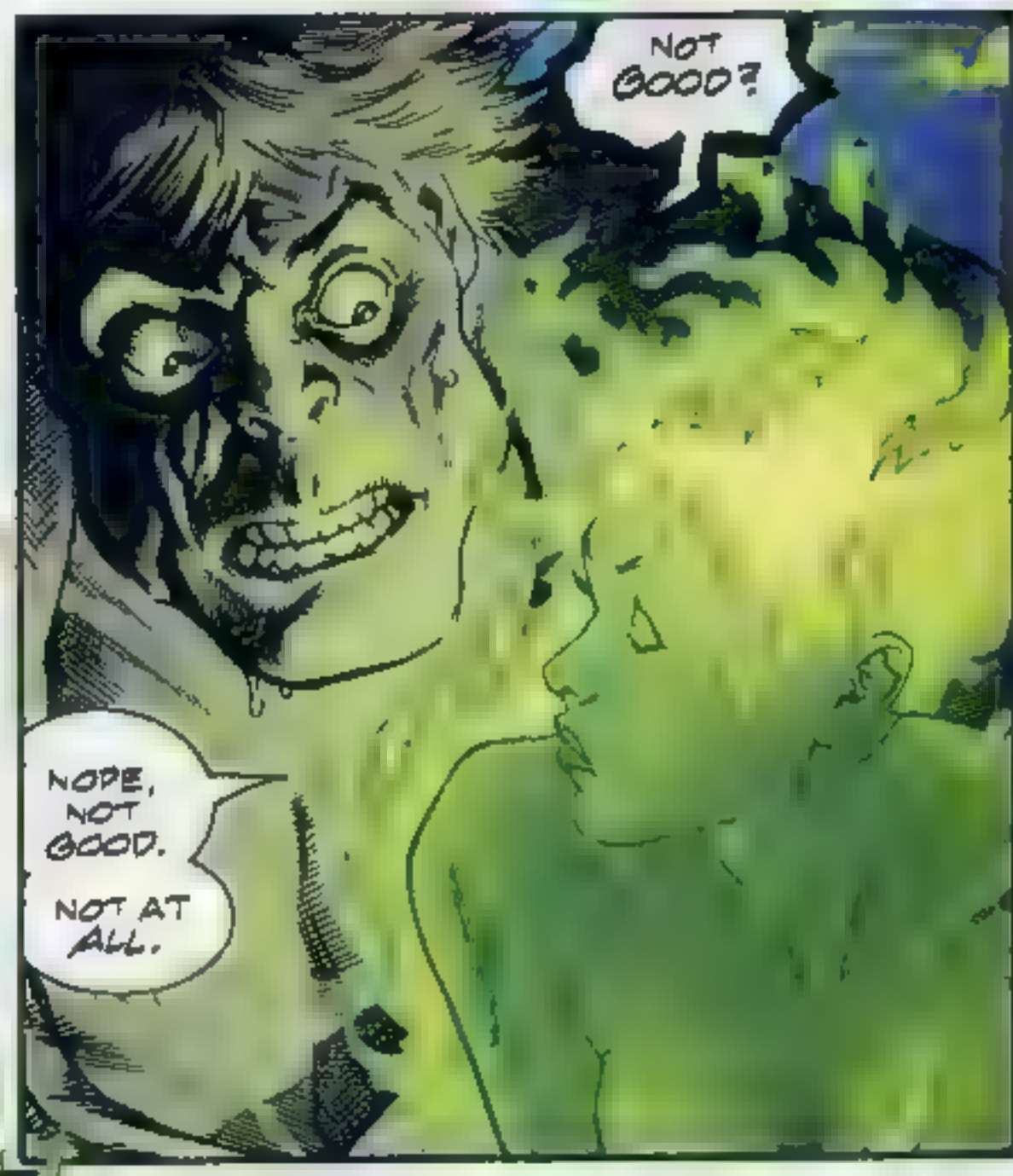
LET'S WRAP
HIM UP, NOT
BREAK HIM.

NO!

I WON'T
BE...



...TAKEN...



NOT
GOOD?

NOPE,
NOT
GOOD.
NOT AT
ALL.



HOW
DO I DO
THAT?

IF I'M IN
TROUBLE I
JUST... GO
SOMEWHERE
ELSE... BUT I
DON'T KNOW
HOW. I
CAN'T...

...CONTROL...

...IT?

YAA!

EASY.
EASY.

ANOTHER
ONE? WHAT
DO YOU TURN
INTO?

WHAT
YOU SEE
IS WHAT
YOU GET
WITH ME.

HOW'D
YOU FIND
ME?

RELAX, I'M
NOT GOING TO
HURT YOU. I
WANT YOU TO
JUST LIE
BACK...

OH, YOU
KNOW...

...MAGIC.

...AND
ENJOY
THIS.

mmpf!

DON'T SEND
A GIRL AND A
MONSTER TO DO
A WOMAN'S
JOB.



A
JOB WELL
DONE.



WHAT DID
YOU EXPECT?
YOU WANT A
MAN CAUGHT...

... YOU
ASK
ME.

THE
OTHERS?



PROBABLY
STILL ROAMING
AROUND OUT THERE
LOOKING FOR HIM.
WHAT CAN I SAY?
AMATEURS.



SO...

... I WAS A
GOOD GIRL. I
DID WHAT I WAS
SUPPOSED TO.
WHAT'S MY
REWARD?

JUST
REVIVE
HIM.



SIGH
WHATEVER
YOU SAY.



YOU'RE
NOT AS MUCH
FUN AS YOU
USED TO BE,
DOC.

I
NEVER
WAS.

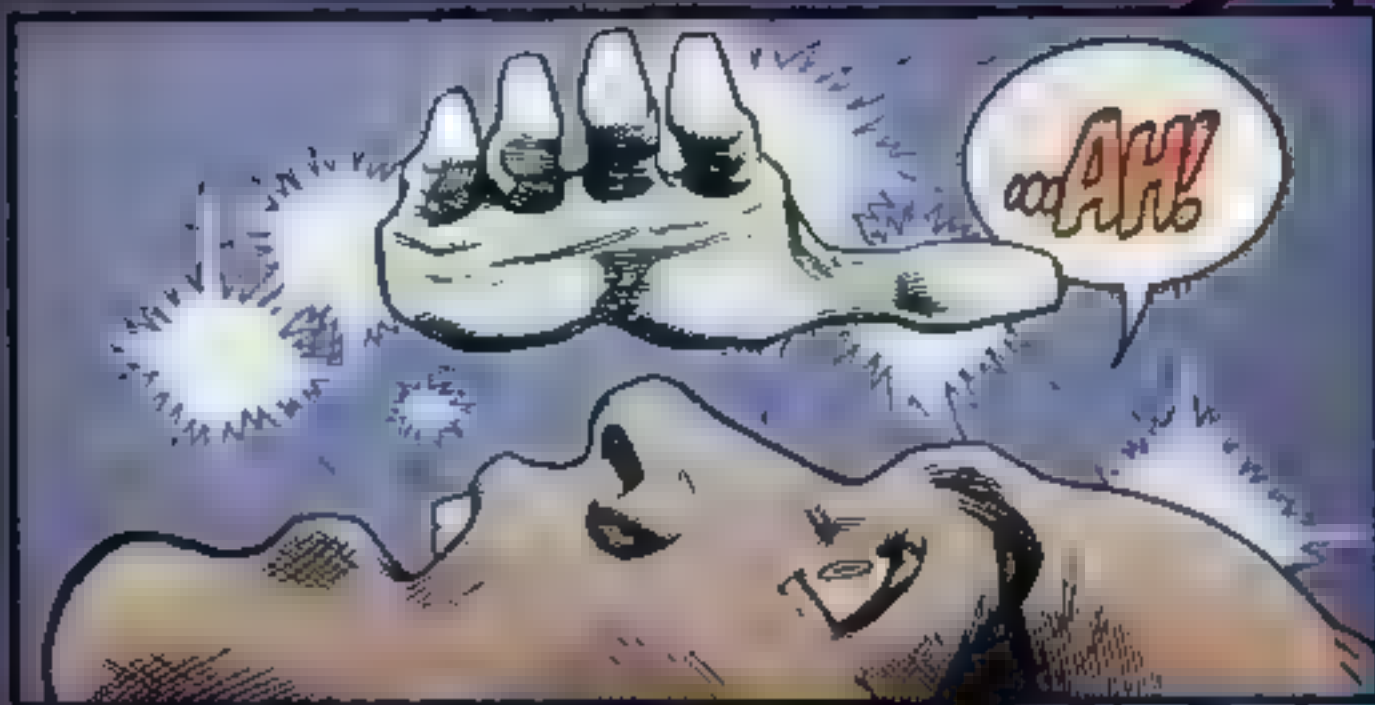
SHOW
HER OUT,
MYX.

WITH
PLEASURE,
MASTER.



WHAT
ABOUT YOU,
MYX? BUSY
TONIGHT?

WHL...



...AH!

WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHO ARE YOU?!

I AM
**DOCTOR
STRANGEFATE.**

I AM THE
PROTECTOR
OF THIS
UNIVERSE.

UH...

...THIS UNIVERSE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN
THIS UNIVERSE?

DON'T INSULT
ME. THIS WILL BE
MUCH EASIER IF
WE'RE HONEST WITH
ONE ANOTHER.

I KNOW
WHO YOU ARE,
AND WHENCE
YOU CAME.

YOU'VE TAKEN THE
NAME ACCESS, YOU ARE
THE LONE SURVIVOR OF
THE TWO UNIVERSES
THAT CAME BEFORE, THE
UNIVERSES FROM WHICH
THIS ONE WAS CONSTRU-
CTED, AND WITHIN YOU...

..YOU HOLD THE
KEYS TO RESTORING
THOSE UNIVERSES,
THEREBY DESTROYING
MY OWN. ALL THIS IS
KNOWN TO ME, AND
ME ALONE.

HOW...
CAN YOU
KNOW?

I AM THE MOST POWERFUL
ENTITY IN THIS UNIVERSE EVEN
BEFORE NABU THE ANCIENT ONE
INSTRUCTED ME IN THE SORCEROUS
ARTS AND GRANTED ME THIS HELM...

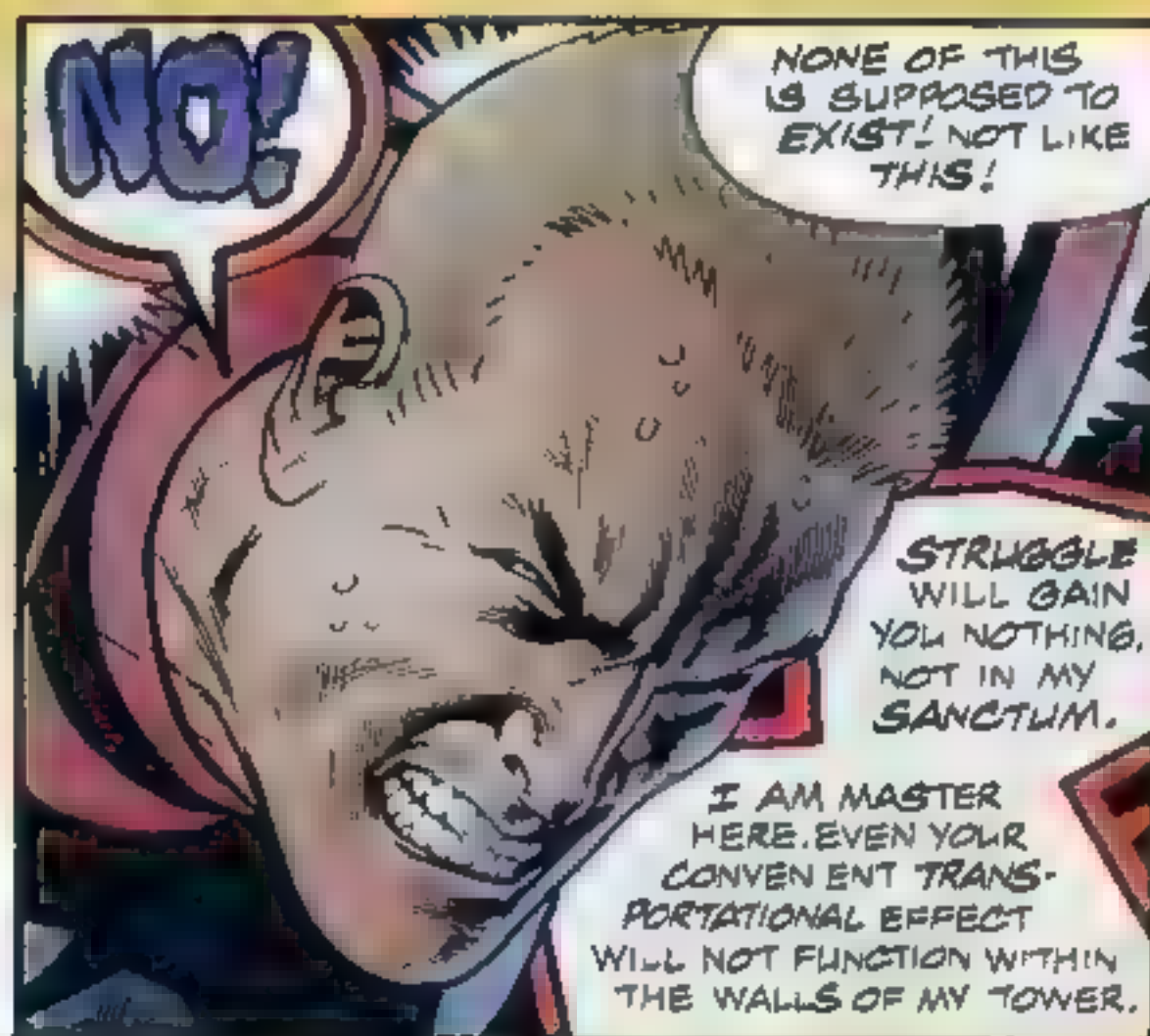
... I WIELD
CONSIDERABLE PSYCHIC
ABILITIES. YOUR MIND
IS AN OPEN BOOK TO
ME, AND IT IS UNLIKE
ANY OTHER THAT
EXISTS IN THIS
REALITY.

YOU
DO NOT
BELONG.



I MEAN TO PRESERVE
THIS UNIVERSE, AND MY
PLACE IN IT. THE THREAT
YOU POSE...

...MUST BE
ELIMINATED.



NO!

NONE OF THIS
IS SUPPOSED TO
EXIST! NOT LIKE
THIS!

STRUGGLE
WILL GAIN
YOU NOTHING,
NOT IN MY
SANCTUM.

I AM MASTER
HERE. EVEN YOUR
CONVENIENT TRANS-
PORTATIONAL EFFECT
WILL NOT FUNCTION WITHIN
THE WALLS OF MY TOWER.



UNDERSTAND...

... I BEAR YOU NO
MALICE, BUT YOUR
LIFE MUST BE FORFEIT
IN ORDER TO INSURE
THE CONTINUATION
OF THIS REALTY.

I DO WHAT IS
NECESSARY TO SAFE-
GUARD MY UNIVERSE.
AND YOU...

... YOU ARE SIMPLY
A WILD CARD TO BE
CAST FROM THE DECK.

THE ALL-
SEEING EYE GAZES
TO THE CORE OF
YOUR BEING ERASING
EVERYTHING THAT
YOU ARE...

... AND FOREVER
DESTROYING THE
SHARDS OF THE
PREVIOUS UNIVERSES
CARRIED WITH N
YOU.



EEYAAAAAH!



YOU
DON'T...

...YOU DON'T
HAVE THEM, DO
YOU? THE KEYS,
THE SHARDS OF
WHAT CAME
BEFORE.

...HNNF...

... I NEVER
SAID... I
DID.

THIS IS...
UNFORESEEN.
I DIDN'T
EXPECT...

... I'M NOT
PREPARED...



WHERE ARE
THEY? WHAT
DID YOU DO
WITH THEM?!

HID THEM,
SOMEPLACE
THEY'RE NOT
GONNA BE
FOUND.

AND WHEN I
GET MY HANDS
ON THEM, I'M
GONNA PUT
EVERYTHING BACK.
I'LL UNZIP ALL
THIS INTO TWO
UNIVERSES
AGAIN...

... ONCE I
FIGURE OUT
HOW...



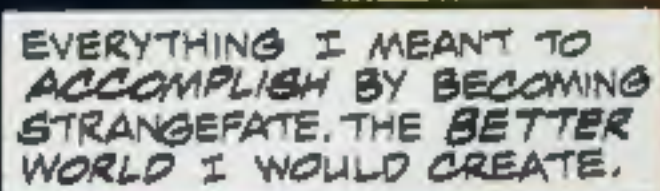
... AND YOU
CAN'T DO A
THING TO
STOP ME!

DON'T!

DON'T
TAKE MY
WORLD...

... APART...





EVERYTHING I MEANT TO
ACCOMPLISH BY BECOMING
STRANGEFATE, THE BETTER
WORLD I WOULD CREATE.

ALL GONE.

I FAILED.

I BELIEVED
MYSELF THE
PROTECTOR OF
THIS UNIVERSE.
I VOWED TO
PRESERVE IT.

AND I
FAILED.

I WASN'T
THIS UNIVERSE'S
SAVIOR. ULTIMATELY
I'M NOTHING MORE
THAN THE MAN
UNDER THE MASK...

...CHARLES
XAVIER.

IT'S
OVER.

NEXT: THE END ...OR THE BEGINNING?

Welcome to the Sanctum, Faithful Ones.

After over a decade in the pages of TALES OF STRANGEFATE, your fervent wishes and dreams have been answered with an all-new mag starring the Mage Supreme: Doctor Strange! With

Ron Marz, José Luis García-López, and Kevin Nowlan continuing the daunting task of the cartography of Doc's ongoing adventures, you longtime fans should be happier than ever! And to any newcomers out there who have started reading with this stellar premiere issue—Where ya been?

To kick everything off, let's see what you have to say on the last issue of TALES:

What's up Doc?

Bigger and badder than ever! With a hot babe like Jade Nova in his debt, how can anyone stop him? Doctor Strange-fate has always been one of my favorite characters in the Amalgam Universe, and TALES OF STRANGEFATE #213 was just another example of how cool the Doc can be—his struggle to save Frankie Rayner's soul from the dread Mephistatanus, the way he hid the price he paid from Myx and Frankie, and the fears for the coming "inexorable changes." I wonder; is his fear of the future a hint at another secret crisis? Big stuff, and with this character, the bigger the better!

Keep it up and the new book will be a bigger hit than the much anticipated JLI! Speaking of the new monthly, any idea who the creative team will be? My vote's in for Marz, García-López and Nowlan—they've done miracles with Strange-fate, and a monthly without their talents would be a shame. Don't disappoint me, okay?

Ed Lawson
Greenwich, CT



Dear Ron, Jose & Kevin:

Awesome! I just sat down and read TALES OF STRANGEFATE #210-213 in one sitting and couldn't believe what I read! Knowing that "Jade Inferno" would be an epic, I waited for the whole storyline to come out before I sat down and read it (the anticipation nearly killed me). It was worth the wait! I always thought Frankie Rayner was a lousy successor to the power of the green flame, but she really earned the right in "Inferno," even if she needed the help of a certain enigmatic demigod. A few suggestions:

THE STRANGEFATE LETTERS

1) Can we see a little more of the Skulk? I've always liked tragic heroes, and he's about as tragic as you can get!

2) Three words: Doctor Strange-fate vs: The Hyena—Doc'll kick his butt!

3) More White Witch! Lots more!

4) A Myx one-shot! It could be about Myx trying to dry clean the Cloak of Levitation.

Before I go, one question: Since the Tower of Strange-fate is built atop Arkham, does that mean the Doctor counsels some of the inmates?

Clea Stevens
Austin, TX

From the top:

1) Sure.

2) Maybe, but I think the Doc's got bigger concerns right now!

3) See answer #1.

4) Very funny! I'm sure if Myx had any sense of humor he'd be laughing right now...



Dan, Ron, Jose & Kevin:

This is my first letter to a comic book, even though I've been a longtime reader of Amalgam Comics (all the way back to the Stan Schwartz era of Super-Soldier). What made me finally write?

Doctor Strange-fate has always been a character on the outskirts of the Amalgam Universe, and I've had kind of a love/hate relationship with him since way back when. I like heroes, and this guy is so unlike a classic hero it's hard to peg him. He seems to have the best of intentions but often does things so manipulative and underhanded to attain those ends, it's hard to just accept him as a good guy. Take for example his victory over Baron Wotan way back in TALES OF STRANGEFATE #157—did he really have to do that to Bruce Banner to defeat the Baron? Sure, Doc may have been a founding member of the JLA—one of my favorite teams of all time—and saved the lives of millions in his time, but the way he uses people really bugs me sometimes. I won't stop reading the book, if only to get a monthly fix of Jose and Kevin's art, but I wish I could really like it.

What makes me write is the hope that with the new monthly DOCTOR STRANGE-

FATE book, you could make him more of a hero, get him to lighten up a bit maybe. He has the potential to be such a positive influence, and with all his power, doesn't really need to be such an utter creep. Why not release Bruce Banner from Skulk, and let Myx return home.

Does he really need their help? Just the amazing stash of talismans and stuff in the Tower of Strange-fate should be enough to defend Earth from the all those threats from beyond, right? Think about it.

Lucas Hall
Cliffside Park, NJ

But would it be any fun?



Dan:

I'm a fairly new reader and love Doctor Strange-fate, but I have a few questions.

Who is Ancient Nabu? I know Xavier got his powers from him, and a lot of the cool occult gear, but who was he and why did he give the power to Strange-fate?

Does Doctor Strange-fate control Bruce Banner's transformation into the Skulk? I know that Skulk is one of his agents, but did he create him?

That's all for now. Keep up the good work!

Charles Conklin
Seattle, WA

Xavier was rescued by Ancient Nabu—then the Lord Supreme of Order—when Xavier was traveling through the Himalayas, and Nabu began schooling him in the mystic arts. Already a powerful mutant telepath, Xavier soon surpassed his teacher and took over as Lord.

As for Skulk, Doc has a spell that controls Banner's transformation, but isn't responsible for it. See THE ABOMINABLE SKULK #1 for details.

—The Abominable Dan



NEXT: With Access free, can Doctor Strange-fate prevent the end of the Amalgam Universe as we know it? And if you thought the Doc being wrong for the first time was shocking, wait until you meet his newest ally—Mephistatanus! Shocking, shattering action by Ron Marz, José Luis García-López and Kevin Nowlan.

AMALGAM



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